

Remarks

In the Final Office Action dated August 3, 2005, claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,393,464 to Dieterman ("Dieterman") in view of Patent Application Publication US 2002/0107950 A1 to Lu ("Lu").

By this Amendment, claims 6 and 11-17 have been canceled without prejudice, new claims 18- 29 have been added, and claims 2, 3, and 8 have been amended. New claims 18 and 24 are independent. No new matter has been entered. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because new claims 18-28 and amended claims 2, 3, and 8 more clearly present the same subject matter of the earlier-presented claims to place the application in better condition for allowance or appeal.

Newly-added independent claim 18 is directed to a method for operating an electronic messaging system, including the step of "synchronizing displays to the approvers whereby ... the display for the at least one other approver is updated according to a changed status for the electronic message." Neither Lu nor Dieterman disclose an electronic messaging system wherein the displays to multiple approvers are synchronized with respect to the approval status of the electronic message. Newly-added independent claim 24 also includes such a step.

In the final Office Action, with regard to then-pending claim 16, the Examiner determined that Dieterman and Lu disclosed "synchronizing the display to the first approver and the display to the second approver of representations of electronic messages that have been presented for approval". This has been addressed by the Applicant in the previous response, wherein the Applicant stated:

Dieterman indicates that certain synchronization can take place between the ISP and client. This synchronization, however, relates to the allowed list of sender addresses that have been approved for delivery to the client terminal. The synchronization of Dieterman has nothing to do with different displays of messages at different locations. Lu indicates that messages may be directed to one or more supervisory recipients, but does not discuss any type of synchronization.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that neither reference discloses or suggests synchronizing “a first display of messages for the first user at a first location with a second display of messages for the first user at a second location.”

Because the newly added independent claims 18 and 24 both include a step of "synchronizing displays to the approvers whereby ... the display for the at least one other approver is updated according to a changed status for the electronic message," Applicant believes that they are not made obvious in view of the Lu and the Dieterman references. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claims 18 and 24 are allowable over the art of record. For the same reason, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims (2, 3, 8, 18-28) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant believes that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.


AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees should any be required for this submission, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an additional Extension of Time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that Extension of Time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an Extension of Time or credit any overpayment for an Extension of Time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

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Respectfully submitted,

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